

Stallings has added some excellent young pitchers, and Rudolph and Tyler are still as effective as ever, though Bill James is so far a negligible quantity.

Konetchy has strengthened the infield in attack, and the outfield is so good that the Miracle Man no longer has to resort to his famous shift, the operation of which has been followed by managers in both league—with punk results. If Joe can get two games out of three from this club he will be doing big business.

Pat Moran is in fourth place, but his team is playing better than last year. The opposition is stouter, which explains his comparatively lowly position. Niehoff is hitting 50 points above his 1915 class, Bancroft has gained experience, and Whitted, as an outfielding regular, is playing the ball he has always been capable of, but never had a chance before to exhibit. Alexander is still the premier pitcher of the National league.

Giants occupy the poorest position in their McGraw history, but the Little Corporal is not bossing a bad ball team. It is a fine hitting and fielding combination lacking pitching. It needs six or seven runs to have even a chance for victory. Once give the Giants some average pitching and they will win considerably more than half their games. It is to be hoped that this stride will not be struck when the club reaches here.

Lumping the eastern teams on the 15 games they will play here, the Cubs should get at least eight, and need nine or more to push back the invaders.

One thing favoring the Cubs is the strength of the remaining western clubs. Each eastern team will have a bitter fight in every city and will be unable to save up effective pitchers for a single big series. With Cincinnati, St. Louis and Pittsburgh playing far above their 1915 form, every series is going to be hard fought.

The White Sox are not dismayed

at leaving home. Their stay here has been a total loss and no insurance except to the box office—and the results of the impending seaboard visit cannot be any worse than what has happened the last few days.

New York will be the first city attacked, beginning Wednesday. No longer have the Yankees a soft club. Baker, Magee, Gilhooley and Gedeon have increased the club's strength in both defense and attack. The pitching staff is fine and good youngster has been added in the person of Markle. No expert left-handers are included, but the right-handers have been difficult for the Sox recently, as witness the way Morton and Stanley Coveleskie baffled them.

Most any kind of a pitcher has been able to keep the Hose from hitting in the pinches.

Boston will introduce two crack left-handers in Leonard and Ruth, and Washington has two more in Boehling and Harper.

Manager Rowland some few days ago said he didn't fear the east much, as the world's champion Red Sox were being consistently whipped by the soft Yank and National crews. But Pants needn't bank much of that when he views the way his own gang has been manhandled by the equally "soft" Cleveland Indians.

Washington and the Yanks have strengthened, both are playing eager, heads-up ball, and are hard combinations to crack. And Walter Johnson is better than ever before. It is a fine prospect for the Hose until Philadelphia is reached, and even there Mack seems to be finally driving his kids a trifle faster. The return of Bush to winning form increases the strength of the Athletics.

Rowland's people are not hitting correctly. They have poled lustily and frequently in the recent set against Cleveland, but always when there were no men on base and there was no chance to count runs.

Joe Jackson hit stoutly, yet did not drive in a run in the four games,